

§Appl. No. 09/778,880
Amdt. dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action of, June 3 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 10, 12-17, 19-29 and 31-34 are pending with claims 3, 5, 7, 8-9, 11, 30 and 35-38 cancelled by this paper.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 29 and 31-35 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have cancelled claim 35 and inserted its substantive features into claim 1, and have rewritten claims 29, 31 and 34 into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Moreover, all the remaining claims in the application depend from these allowable claims, and thus the application is in condition for allowance. Also, Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments have been made to expedite prosecution, and should not be construed as acquiescence to any grounds of rejection.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Ruland, Reg. No. 37,432
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO
& BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

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JER/jmj